



Action Line

commander.action@nellis.af.mil

652-4636

Nellis' Action Line is your direct line to the 99th Air Base Wing commander, Col. Andrew Dichter. If you have worked through normal channels and are not satisfied with the answer, the Action Line is your opportunity to ask questions or make suggestions about the subjects of concern to the Nellis community.

Please leave your name and phone number in case more specific information is required. You may also use our e-mail address: commander.action@nellis.af.mil. Action Lines of general interest will be published in the Bullseye; others will be answered by phone. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to solve a problem is to talk directly to the office that is responsible. This gives them a chance to help you and perhaps improve the process.



Col. Andrew Dichter
99th Air Base Wing commander

Pick it up, Team Nellis can keep base looking sharp

by Col. R.J. Tedesco
99th Support Group Commander

Actually, let me start off with thanks. I would like to thank Team Nellis for working so hard to make this base look great for our recent important visitors and for ourselves.

Yes, we do put extra emphasis on base appearance during visits, but we should keep the place looking great for ourselves every day. We work hard and deserve a nice place to work – and play.

Have you noticed that one piece of paper on the ground at Nellis can make the area look like a pile of garbage? One untidy yard stands out because the majority look so good.

This is where I need your help. I'm asking all of Team Nellis, that includes spouses and family members, to continue to work hard to keep Nellis neat and clean.

If you see that unsightly piece of paper, or anything else on the street, on the lawn, or in the rocks – pick it up please, I do.

If your building or house has those weeds that pop up in the middle of the night suddenly in the yard, pull them out. If that common area near your house or workplace looks messed up, fix it.

It's a team effort to make Nellis be the best it can be.

For you, the 99th Support Group is consistently looking for ways to make Nellis look better on the infrastructure side.

We are fixing buildings, painting houses, building houses, fixing roads, etc. If you find areas that need a focus, let your chain of command know, and they will funnel up the information to the appropriate agency.

Of course, we are resource-constrained and will do the best we can within

the means we have.

We will push for quality of life improvements all the time.

Oh yeah, need your help in, at least, one more area. The dippy dumpsters, though ugly, are necessary. Please close the lids. Besides making an ugly thing look better, closing the lid keeps the trash on base down when the wind blows.

If your dumpster's lids cannot close it's because our trash collector has put it in a wrong place. Let 99th Civil Engineer Squadron quality assurance know and they will work with the contractor to fix the problem.

Thanks for helping the civil engineer teams keep Nellis looking nice. I also thank all of you for making my first 60 days informative, productive and enjoyable. I look forward to working with you to make sure the mission is accomplished no matter what your mission is.



Col. R.J. Tedesco, 99th Support Group Commander

Summer pastime can lead unsuspecting airmen to trouble

It is summer, and the thoughts of many Americans turn towards baseball, the national pastime. It conjures up thoughts of endless days and the fortunate men who make their living at playing a boy's game.

But in today's Air Force, there has developed a new twist on the national pastime, which could lead many unsuspecting airmen into trouble.

Fantasy baseball, also known as rotisserie baseball, has exploded in growth in the last decade since the advent of personal computers and the Internet.

Fantasy baseball generally involves a group of baseball fans who select real major league players during a fantasy baseball "draft" at the beginning of the year. Generally, this draft is conducted in person, although in some instances, a telephone or on-line computer service can be used.

After a team owner selects his or her team, the statistics of the team are tracked on-line, usually by a paid service on-line, for the remainder of the season. In almost all cases, there is a fee that owners must pay to enter a team, and then prize money is awarded at the end of the season based upon the finish of each owner's team.

While this may seem, on the surface, like a relatively innocuous pursuit, there are many dangers in this sport when viewed within the military context. These are issues which should be carefully analyzed by anyone who is thinking about joining a fantasy baseball league or is already a participant in a fantasy league.

The first issue concerns the use and possible misuse of government computers, which is governed by Air Force

Instruction 33-129. As mentioned earlier, most rotisserie leagues are established through the use of an Internet web site, which tabulates the individual owner's statistics on a daily or weekly basis, relative to the rest of the owner's league.

In order to download the information regarding the fantasy league, the Internet must be accessed. If this Internet site is accessed by a government computer, then Chapter 6.1 states that using the Internet for other than authorized purposes may result in adverse administrative or disciplinary action. The following activities involving the use of government-provided computer hardware or software...are specifically prohibited. Any use of government-provided computer hardware or software for other than official and authorized government business.

This leads to the conclusion that fantasy baseball websites should not be accessed from a government computer at the workplace.

However, the use of the Internet from a morale, welfare and recreation facility or the base library could be used for non-mission related activities, and it would appear that baseball websites could be viewed from these facilities.

According to AFI 33-129, Chapt. 6.4, this is acceptable only in non-mission related users are not allowed unauthorized access to base, Air Force, or government resources.

Additionally, the AFI has specific instructions regarding the use of e-mails, which could apply to fantasy baseball leagues. Chapter 3.6 instructs commanders to ensure

that e-mail is used for personal reasons only when: such use does not interfere with official duties; it is of reasonable duration and frequency; serves a legitimate Air Force interest and creates no additional expense to the Air Force.

Many commanders have likened the personal use of e-mails to the personal use of the telephone, and this appears to be a good rule of thumb.

Another important point to remember is the gambling element inherent in fantasy baseball.

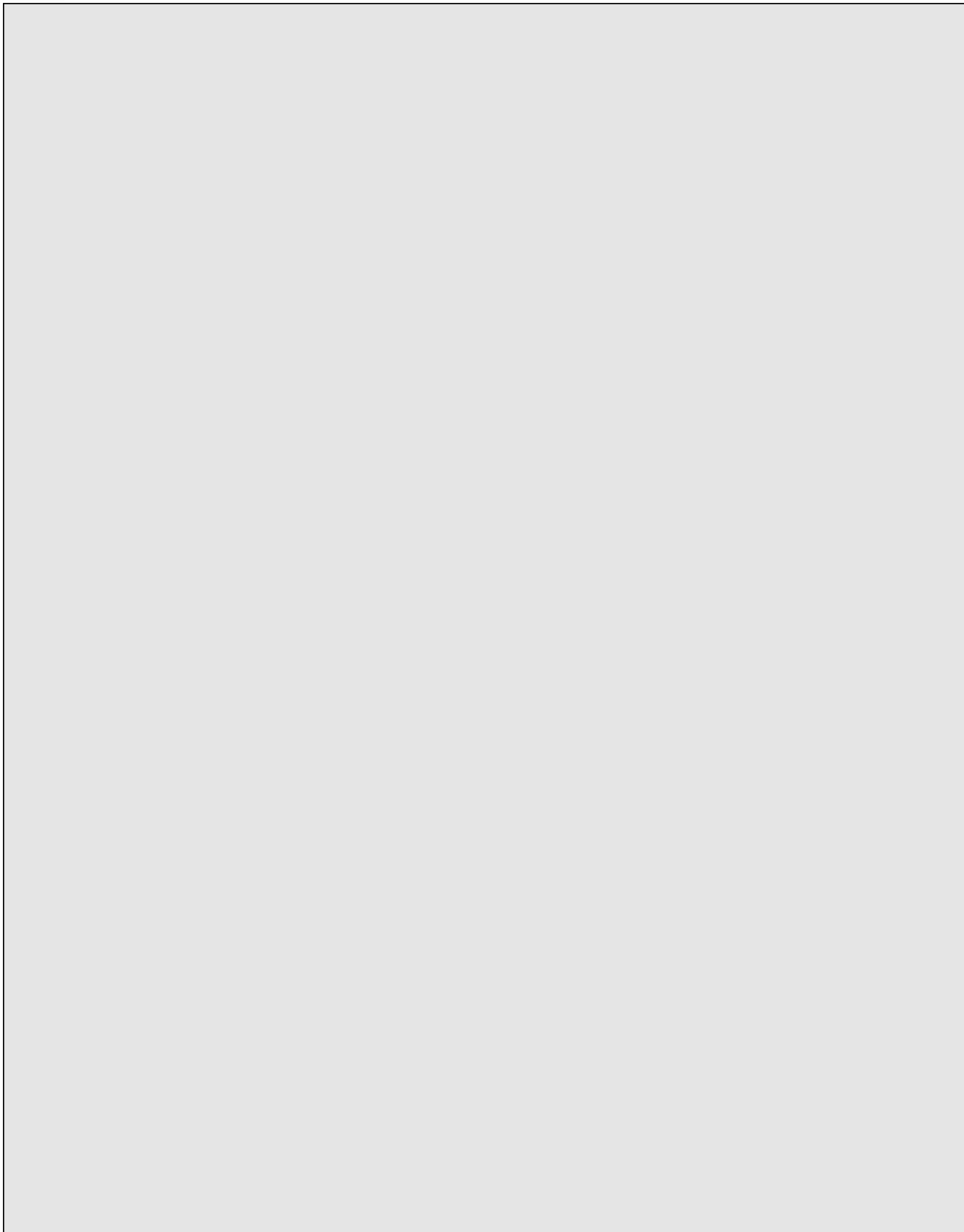
When a cash prize is offered at the end of the season for the winner, after the entry fee is paid by each owner at the beginning of the season, this can be considered gambling under Article 134, Uniform Code of Military Justice. This article forbids a noncommissioned officer from gambling with an enlisted person of a less than noncommissioned officer rank.

Any officer gambling with an enlisted person is subject to prosecution under Article 133 of the UCMJ, for conduct unbecoming an officer.

Thus, any noncommissioned officer in a fantasy baseball league with an enlisted person of less than noncommissioned officer rank is subject to prosecution under the UCMJ. Likewise, any officer in a fantasy baseball league with enlisted members also can be prosecuted.

Despite these restrictions, fantasy baseball is not prohibited in the Air Force. If the above guidelines are followed, it is an entertaining way to enhance the enjoyment of the baseball season.

But if these guidelines are not followed, fantasy baseball players could receive more than they bargained for.





Nellis news

CGOC meeting today

Mr. Randy Black, Nellis Support Team commander, will speak at the Company Grade Officers' Council meeting held at the Officers' Club at 4 p.m. today. All company grade officers are encouraged to attend.

PA closed today

The Public Affairs office will close at noon today for an official function.

Protestant women

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will hold a general meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Enlisted Club.

Items discussed will include upcoming events and new membership.

The PWOC is open to all women and provides an opportunity to meet other people and become involved in community outreach.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Sheryl Decker at 652-3055.

Rifle tournament

The Rod and Gun Club will host a Military/Police/Civilian Hunter's Rifle Tournament beginning at 7 a.m. Sept. 25. Preregistration is \$20. After Sept. 18 the cost is \$24 per competitor. The tournament is limited to 100 competitors.

POW/MIA Day

The annual ceremony to honor all American prisoners of war and servicemembers missing in action will be held at 8 a.m. Sept. 17 in front of the Air Warfare Center headquarters building.

The ceremony will include the pre-

sentation of the POW/MIA medal to five former prisoners of war.

For more information, call 652-8321 or 652-7739.

820th RHS Dining-In

The 820th RED HORSE Squadron is holding a combat Dining-In at the covered storage facility in Area II at 6 p.m. Sept. 25.

Everyone formerly assigned to the 820th RHS stable is cordially invited to attend. Any vintage uniform is acceptable.

Mr. John Brockes, a former POW and combat engineer will be the guest speaker.

Choices for dinner are steak, chicken or vegetarian for \$6. Oats and grains will be served in the classic barley and hops fashion.

Stalls in the barn will be available as well as designated drivers.

Decisions to gallop over to Area II and whinny with fellow horsemen should be coordinated through Senior Master Sgts. Jamie Borkert at 652-1020 or Kelly Martin at 652-1202.

CFC training

Training sessions for each unit's Combined Federal Campaign keyworkers will be at 8 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday in Bldg. 20, Room 211.

Each representative needs to attend one of the sessions.

For more information, call Capt. Jennifer Steils at 653-3500 or Capt. Susan Phillips at 652-4700.

Reserve briefings

Palace Chase Air Force Reserve brief-

ings will be held at 2 p.m. Sept. 22 in Bldg. 20, Room 202.

Anyone with a separation date more than a year from now who is interested in separating early is welcome to attend this briefing.

For more information, call 652-9073.

Palace Front Air Force Reserve briefings will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday and Sept. 30 in Bldg. 20, Room 319.

Eligible officers and enlisted personnel with a separation date in February should have received notification to attend this mandatory briefing.

For more information, call 652-4806.

Jewish War Veterans

Jewish War Veterans Post 30 will meet at 10 p.m. Sunday at Sunrise Mountain View Hospital at Tenaya and Cheyenne.

The speaker will be Mr. Brian Greenspun.

Call Navy Cmdr. Mitch Kuhn at 228-5612 for more information.

Tree planting

The 99th Civil Engineer Squadron will plant 250 trees in military housing during September.

Military housing residents desiring a tree should call 652-3036.

Home school group

There will be a meeting of the newly formed Nellis Home School Group from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Chapel, Rooms 11 and 13.

This meeting is to gather ideas.

Everyone is invited and childcare

will be available.

For more information, call 440-6277.

Hazardous material

The Quarterly Hazardous Material Awareness Seminar will be held at the Recycling Center, Bldg. 461, from 8 to 10 a.m. Sept. 22.

The training is for anyone who buys, handles or manages hazardous material.

Only the first 30 people who register can attend the seminar due to limited seating.

To register or for more information, call 652-6410.

AFSPA meeting

The Silver State Chapter of the Air Force Security Police Association will meet at 7 p.m. Sept. 21 in Bldg. 11.

Membership is open to anyone who has or still serves in the security forces field.

For more information, call Mr. Jon Mehringer at 639-6046.

Girl Scouts wanted

The Girl Scouts of Nellis are looking for girls and adults to be a part of the Girl Scout experience. Girls ages 5 to 17 are encouraged to join.

Registration for the 1999 to 2000 year will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 18 at the Girl Scout Hut at 7 Shaver Dr. in Manch Manor.

Registration fees are \$7.

For more information, call 643-9144.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Rosaire Bushey

On target

Tech. Sgt. Brian Brown, 320th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, takes part in the weekly Friday dart tournament while deployed to the Middle East. Sgt. Brown is deployed from the 99th Communications Squadron.

Managing TRICARE claims

Payment of healthcare related claims in a timely manner is important. The checklist below has been provided to help make the claims process easier for TRICARE beneficiaries and their providers.

- Update DEERS for yourself and/or your family members regularly by calling toll-free, 1-800-538-9552, via facsimile at (408) 644-6256 or via electronic mail at addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil. Information should include: (1) sponsor's name and Social Security number, (2) the change you want to make, (3) name of other family members affected by this change, (4) effective date of change and (5) your telephone number and area code.

- If enrolled in TRICARE Prime, contact your primary care manager (PCM) first for all health care needs. *In the case of an emergency, go immediately to the nearest emergency room and notify your PCM within 24 hours. If the situation is not life threatening, call the TRICARE Line for care toll-free at 1-888-887-4111 for health care advice and education.*

- Ask your provider if the proper authorization and/or referral has been obtained before receiving care that requires it.

- When receiving care, show both military and TRICARE Prime ID cards. (Note: active-duty personnel assigned to Nellis will not have TRICARE Prime ID.)

- Anyone with health insurance must still obtain TRICARE authorizations and referrals to ensure proper secondary payment. Remind providers to bill the OHI first and submit an Explanation of Benefits with the claim. TRICARE is a secondary payer to OHI.

- Pay any applicable co-payments or deductibles right away.

- Reference your TRICARE Standard and/or Prime Member Handbook for answers to your TRICARE program-related questions.

- If your provider is not in the network, make sure he/she accepts TRICARE.

- Visit the TRICARE Service Center in the Mike O'Callaghan Federal Hospital, which is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed holidays.

Individuals may also call the TRICARE Service Center at 450-4000 in the Las Vegas metro area. Outside the metropolitan area, call TriWest toll-free at 1-888-TRIWEST or 1-888-874-9378 to report any changes to OHI coverage. For more information call the local TRICARE Service Center at 450-4000 or TriWest toll-free at 1-888-TriWest, 1-888-874-9378.

(Information provided by TRICARE.)



Recruiting

AF Undersecretary revisits career field

by Senior Airman Jeffrey Bishop
Air Force Print News

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Back with the blue for less than a month, the undersecretary of the Air Force started her new career by revisiting one of her first careers: recruiting.

Ms. Carol A. DiBattiste, confirmed as undersecretary Aug. 6, met with Air Force Recruiting Services officials here Aug. 30 to gain a better understanding of the challenges Air Force recruiters face in today's booming economy.

The Air Force "mustang" was a recruiter three times while on active duty — as a noncommissioned officer and an officer. While she concedes much about the Air Force has changed since 1991, when she last signed someone up to serve, she said she thinks she can help recruiting get out of the "pickle" it is in right now.

That pickle is a shortage of about 2,000 high-quality recruits needed this fiscal year. This is the first time since 1979 that the Air Force hasn't met its recruiting goal. DiBattiste said senior leadership is concerned about the shortfall, and has drafted a plan to turn the numbers around.

To do so, the service must first add "more top-of-the-line production recruiters to the Air Force," she said. "That's who sold me on the Air Force. When I walked into my recruiting office, it was my recruiter who talked to me one-on-one and told me about what the Air Force had to offer."

The Air Force must also enhance prior-service recruiting — getting those who are within a year of separating back into the service.

"They are qualified, they are skilled; they've re-

ceived the thousands and thousands of dollars of training that we've pumped into them," she said.

Finally, Ms. DiBattiste said the service needs to increase the number of enlistment bonuses and the num-

ber of career fields for which those bonuses are offered. The service started offering such bonuses in more than 100 Air Force specialties in October. Ms. DiBattiste said expanding this program is key to competing with other services, as well as industry, colleges and universities.

"We're different from private industry ... We offer someone the ability to serve his or her country in a way that private industry does not."

Ms. Carol A. DiBattiste
Undersecretary of the Air Force

While financial incentives is one way the Air Force is combating increased competition for qualified recruits, Ms. DiBattiste said the services can't, and shouldn't, compete with civilian employers when it comes to pay.

"We're different from private industry," explained Ms. DiBattiste. "We offer something different. We offer someone the ability to serve his or her country in a way that private industry does not."

While pay reform is set to occur over the next five years, DiBattiste said the intangible compensation of serving one's country — which is the main reason she enlisted in 1971 — is something that no one can put a price on.

"That is something that people want to do from inside them, and that's a satisfaction and reward that money can't buy," she said.

Ms. DiBattiste said spending money on television

advertising — something the Air Force started doing for the first time in February — should also improve lagging recruiting, as well as a perceived disconnect between Air Force people and the American public.

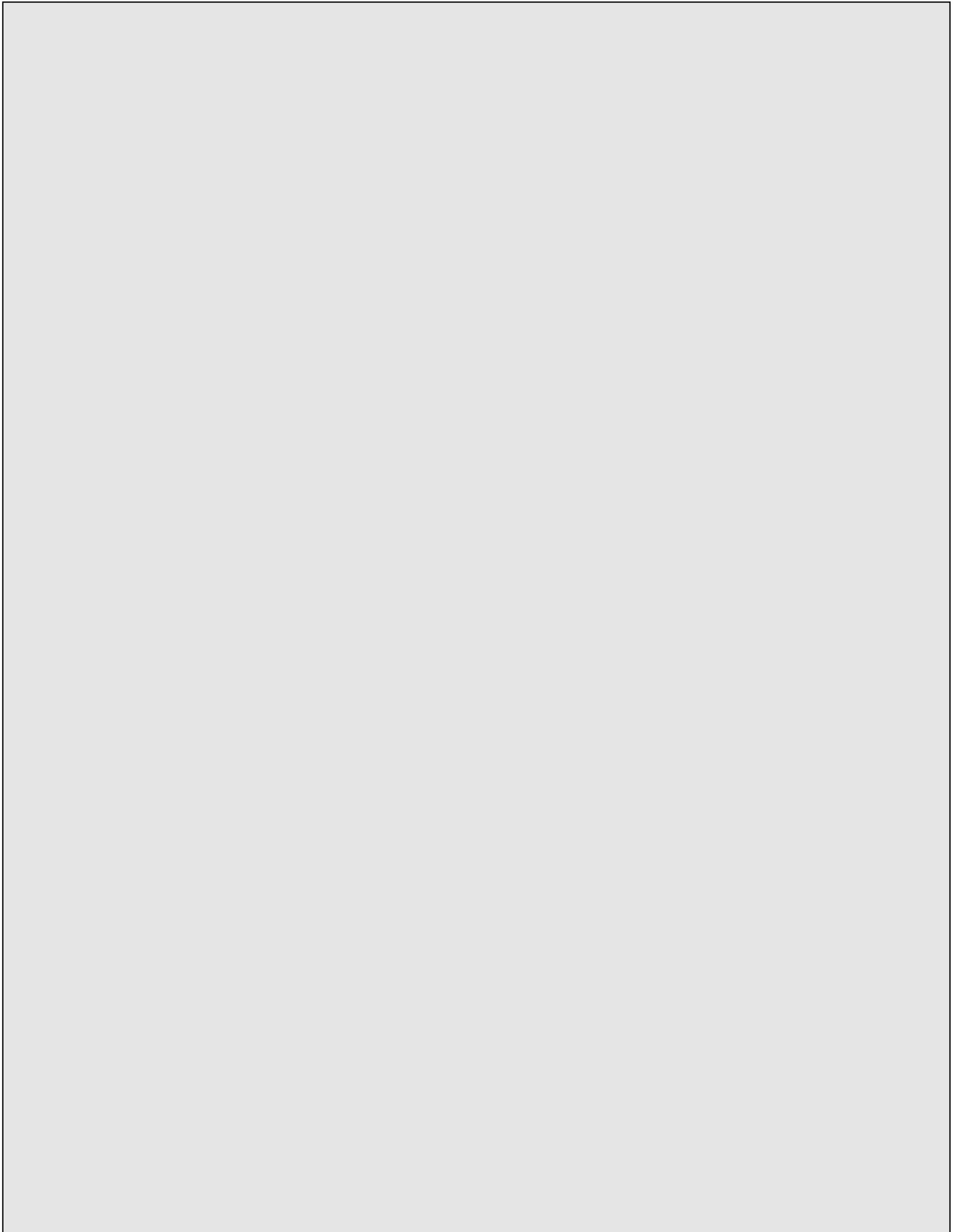
"The reason for that (disconnect), in my view, is we don't have enough people in uniform in our communities who have retired from the Air Force, or who are still serving in the Air Force," she said. "Getting the word out by advertising will definitely supplement what our recruiters need to do, and will fix that disconnect."

The former recruiter, disbursement accounting specialist, judge advocate general, prosecutor and teacher said recruiting may be one of the toughest jobs in the Air Force, but it is also one of the most rewarding.

"There is nothing like seeing someone who you have recruited, and who you put in the Air Force, when they've finished basic training, when they've finished technical school, when they're out there on the flightline, when they're sitting behind a desk helping someone get the job done," she said. "That is rewarding." She said the endless struggle to find quality people to enlist is rewarded "ten-fold" by such an end.

Ms. DiBattiste said that reward can be had by every person wearing the blue suit today, because every airman is also a recruiter.

"The best thing you can do for the Air Force is to go to your community and tell people how successful you've been and what you've done." She advises airmen to tell friends of "the training you've received, the education you've received; what you've done to serve your country."





Marines receives SWAT training

by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi
AWFC Public Affairs



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

(Standing) Lance Cpl. Jimmie Barfield and Lance Cpl. Lawrence McCue demonstrate tactical entry techniques into a building.

A dozen Marines, one Navy Corpsman, a handful of Los Angeles County Sheriff's SWAT team members and a few Air Force security force members were all part of the diverse team that conducted a joint training mission at Nellis recently.

Day one of the unique two-day training session consisted of a combination of classroom and flight line indoctrination for the members of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Military Police Detachment, Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, Calif. Air Force security measures, terminology, use of force, handcuffing and challenging procedures were just some of the subjects covered, according to Staff Sgt. Scott Scheffey, 99th Security Forces Squadron, flight trainer.

"The training provided the Marines with a chance to learn more about security in joint operations," said Marine 1st Lt. Adam Close, leader of the Marine training unit. "Because they could work with the Air Force during their upcoming deployment to the western pacific, the Marines needed to become familiar with how the Air Force security forces conducts business."

Day two of the training included members of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's SWAT team demonstrating building entry and clearing, hostage rescue, and man-down extraction techniques, said Sgt. Scheffey.

In the afternoon, the class was moved to the security forces training facility in Area III. This is where the SWAT trainers taught and demonstrated building entry and hostage rescue, said Sgt. Joe Gonzales, L.A. County Sheriff's SWAT team trainer.

"We use simulated 9mm rounds made of soap. When you're shot, it leaves a light mark on your clothes," said Sgt. Gonzales. "It instills a sense of realism and elevates the adrenaline. It makes it more real."

This type of training is really good for all the units involved. It allows each organization to see how the other one works and it fosters teamwork and cooperation, said Sgt. Scheffey.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

A SWAT team member loads his 9mm with soap bullets.



The 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Military Police Detachment learns about the capabilities of the A-10.

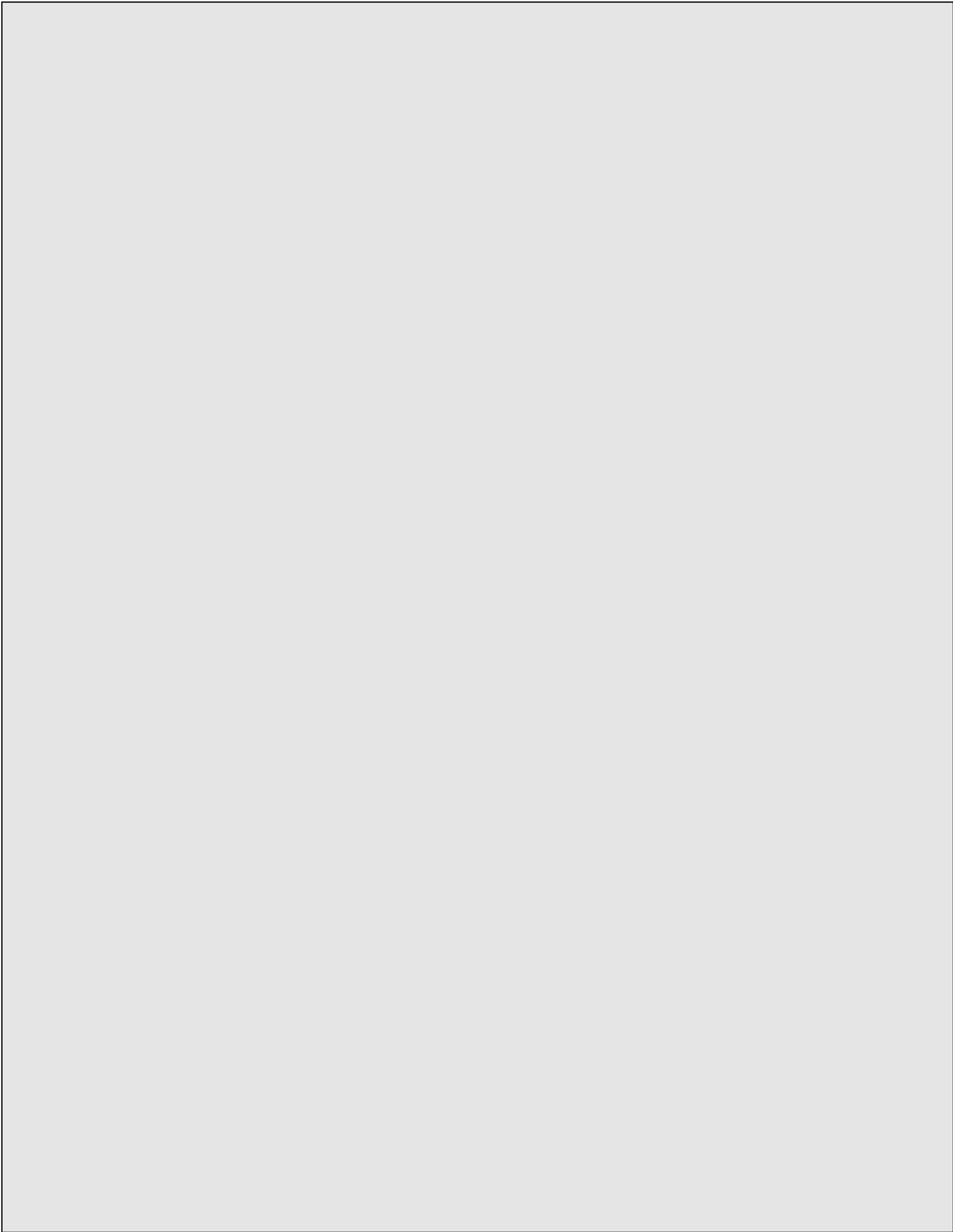
Photo by Senior Airman Molly A. Gilliam

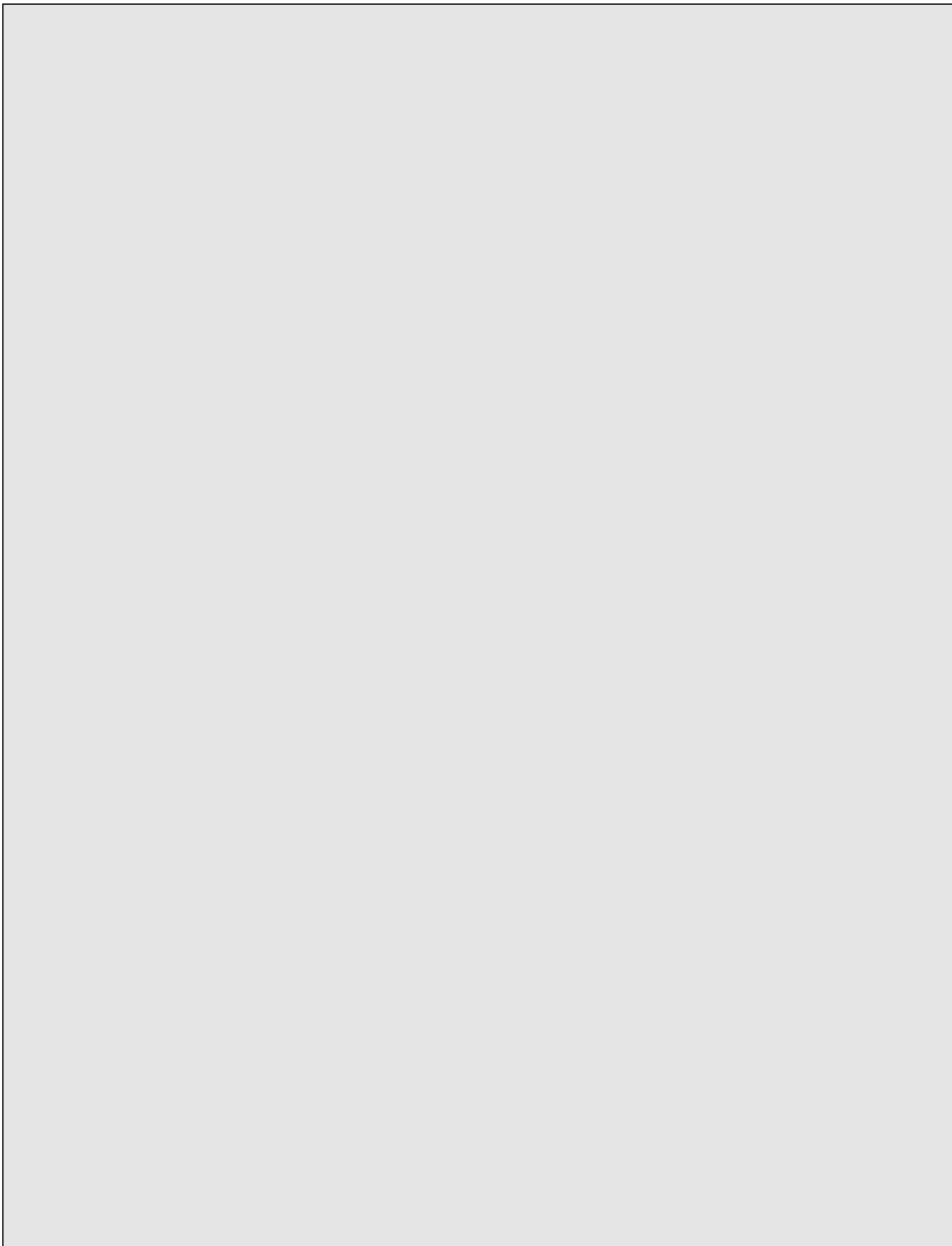


Photos by Senior Airman Molly A. Gilliam

Lance Cpl. Casey Warasse simulates frisking a suspect during a SWAT training exercise with the 99th Security Forces Squadron and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.







Packin' for survival



Photos by Amn. James T. May III

Staff Sgt. Robert McCreery, from the School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, performs a parachute maintenance check after a jump.

by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi
AWFC Public Affairs

With calm deliberate movements, practiced ease and an extra set of eyes, the parachute riggers pack a bag that could save a life.

It's the 57th Equipment Maintenance Squadron's, Survival Equipment Shop's job to pack parachutes, check survival gear like life rafts and life preservers and maintain the anti-'G' garments for the pilots that fly from the Nellis skies.

"We maintain all (survival gear for) the fighters and helos on base," said Tech. Sgt. Rick Ludwig, the NCOIC of Survival Equipment.

Normally the shop packs 10 parachutes a week, but when busy, could pack 10 a day, said Sgt. Ludwig.

The shop was credited with packing one of the parachutes that saved a pilot's life during an F-15 mishap recently, said Sgt. Ludwig.

"The job is a significant one," said Sgt. Ludwig.

The parachute shop's main room is very long and houses several 40 foot long butcher-block tables used to lay out the long lines and riggings of the chutes for proper packing. Down the hall is the parachute tower, a 50 foot tower used to "shake the desert out of the chutes," said Sgt. Ludwig.

In addition to packing parachutes, the annual inspections of life rafts and preservers is also a normal day-to-day job, said Sgt. Ludwig.

"We inflate them (the rafts) fully and let them sit for six hours. Then do a pressure check to verify they pass a leakage test," said Sgt. Ludwig.

If a pilot does land in the water and is unconscious, his chute could drag him under, or he might not be able to activate his life preserver. The Air Force fixed those potential problems by installing water activated releases on the parachute and life preservers, said Sgt. Ludwig.

The parachute shop is just another link in the chain ensuring the men and women of Nellis are safe while flying in our skies.



Amn. Lisa Wachler of the 57th Equipment Maintenance Squadron does a harness build up.



Senior Airman Laurent Bailey, left, and Amn. Mark Moseby, both of the 57th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, perform a parachute inspection.



Inmates integrate Nellis workforce

by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi
AWFC Public Affairs

The Federal Prison Camp in Area II houses non-violent, low-risk, first time offenders. Their inmate uniforms aren't black and white stripes or an orange jump suit, but a subdued, khaki colored shirt and khaki pants.

The uniform they wear allows them to be easily identified from a distance and still let them interact comfortably with base personnel, said a Federal Bureau of Prisons official.

The inmates are assigned to the main base daily from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and are under the watchful eye of a trained military or civilian supervisor, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons official.

Typically, each morning at 8 a.m. a supervisor picks up an inmate detail and transports them back to their assigned work area. Every two hours the supervisor must check on them and record their presence on a daily log. The inmates' lunches are provided by the prison and signed for and picked up at 11 a.m. At 2:30 p.m. the inmate detail is returned to the pickup point.

"The inmates do essential work for us, especially in lawn and grounds maintenance," said Col. Richard J. Tedesco, 99th Support Group commander. "Our relationship with The Nellis Federal Prison Camp is a win-win situation. By agreement, they provide us with invaluable labor, allowing us to use our young airmen on mission tasks, and we provide the inmates with job skills they can use when they are released."

Simple guidelines from the Federal Bureau of Prisons when working with inmates are:

Never let an inmate:

Use your first name
Touch you
Use a phone
Use a computer
Ride in a POV
Leave the base, unless to return to the camp
Perform personal tasks, i.e. working on POV's, picking up dry cleaning, ect...

Inmates can't have:

Money
Civilian clothes
In-coming or out-going mail
Food not provided by Federal Bureau of Prisons
Personal relationships with Nellis community members

Remember to use common sense when supervising inmates,
Report suspicious inmate activity to the Law Enforcement Desk at 652 2311 *or the Nellis Prison Camp at 644-5001.*



U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds

by Staff Sgt. Jason Haag
USAFADS/PA

"Excellence in all we do" is one of the U.S. Air Force's core values. Since 1953, the U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, "Thunderbirds" has been a symbol of that value.

The Thunderbirds take the Air Force on the road every weekend from mid March through mid November, demonstrating to the public the professional competence of Air Force people.

"Our squadron acts as a looking glass into the U.S. Air Force," said Lt. Col. Brian Bishop, U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron commander/leader. "The precision flying, dedication to the mission and esprit de corps projected by every member of our team can be seen throughout the rest of the service."

The Thunderbirds' season actually begins in mid November with a four-month training season.

During the training season, the pilots will fly two or three times a day, five days a week.

"We fly more than 100 missions per pilot before the show season ever begins — this is in addition to the hundreds of hours we spend in ground preparation," said Maj. Scott Bowen, a first year pilot flying in the teams slot position. "We use a building block approach following a strict syllabus, flying lower and in tighter formations in preparation for the show season."

Aircraft maintainers are the key to ensuring the pilots have safe, reliable aircraft to train in. All maintainers — crew chiefs and specialists — are assigned a specific aircraft and are responsible for all servicing and scheduled maintenance.

"Our responsibilities range from servicing the aircraft with fuel, to inspections and part changes," said Technical Sgt. James Tibbetts, crew chief for the commander/leader's jet. "If there is a problem with our aircraft, it is our responsibility to ensure it is documented and fixed quickly and correctly."

Besides ensuring the teams 12 aircraft are ready to fly — maintainers also spend countless hours practicing the marching and other movements of the teams 30-minute ground ceremony.

"We want to show the crowd the same precision on the ground as the pilots have in the air," said Master Sgt. Donald McCracken, the team's 1999 line chief.

After four months training and preparation, it's time for the show season to begin.

The Thunderbirds are deployed about 210 days each year to sites around the country and world.

During the show season, the team moves to a seven-day-week schedule.

On Mondays, the team usually returns to Nellis. Those who traveled take time to file travel vouchers and find their luggage while the pilots debrief their flight. Also, the air show coordinator finalizes the upcoming trip itinerary.





The people who did not travel recover the jets and make sure they are fueled and ready to fly the next day. Tuesday is practice day for the pilots and ground crew. Usually the pilots will fly one or two training missions over Range 65 near Indian Springs. Maintainers practice their ground ceremony and also make sure the jets are ready to deploy on Thursday.

Wednesday is a day off for those traveling on the upcoming trip. Some of those not traveling form an upload crew. This crew spends part of this day loading the support airplane (one C-141 or two C-130s) with enough support equipment and spare parts to get the team through the next deployment. All together — with people and equipment — the load will be about 52,000 lbs.

The Thunderbirds do not have a dedicated support aircraft, so it becomes the job of the team's logistics coordinator, or "loggie," to find the team airlift.

"We are a pretty unique unit in the fact that we have a weekly airlift support require-

See Thunderbirds on Page 19

(Page 16 upper left) The Thunderbirds travel with approximately 65,000 pounds worth of support equipment. Tech. Sgt. Biff Brown assists loadmasters guide one of three support trailers onto a C-5 Globemaster. (lower left) Staff Sgt. Fenton Fukushima, crew chief for the #6 opposing solo, and other crew chiefs aid pilots strapping in during the Thunderbird ground show. (Page 17 upper right center) The two solo pilots race toward each other at a combined speed of over 1,200 mph and at the last possible second turn at precisely show center during the opposing knife edge pass. (upper right) Maj. Mike Byrne, advance pilot and narrator, is the voice of the Thunderbirds on the ground keeping the crowds informed on what is happening in the air. (lower center) The Thunderbirds in diamond formation soar through the air. (lower right) After the air show is over pilots and ground crew get a chance to meet the crowd. Maj. Dennis Malfer, lead solo, signs autograph for a fan.



Nellis picnic scheduled for Sept. 17

by Senior Airman Monica J. Munro
AWFC Public Affairs

Nothing like a warm, sunny day with music, friends and food. The Military Appreciation Day Picnic scheduled for 11 a.m. Sept. 17 at Freedom Park promises to be just that.

There will be free food, entertainment, pony rides and prize drawings, and the North Las Vegas police and fire departments will provide displays and demonstrations.

“Bring the family and see the ‘Safe House’ exhibit the North Las Vegas Fire Department is providing,” said Ms. Janice Kimmel, 99th Services Squadron marketing director. “The fire department will also display their custom drag racing motorcycle.”

According to Ms. Kimmel, the police department will be there with a remote car for children to ride and they will also bring a motorcycle for display.

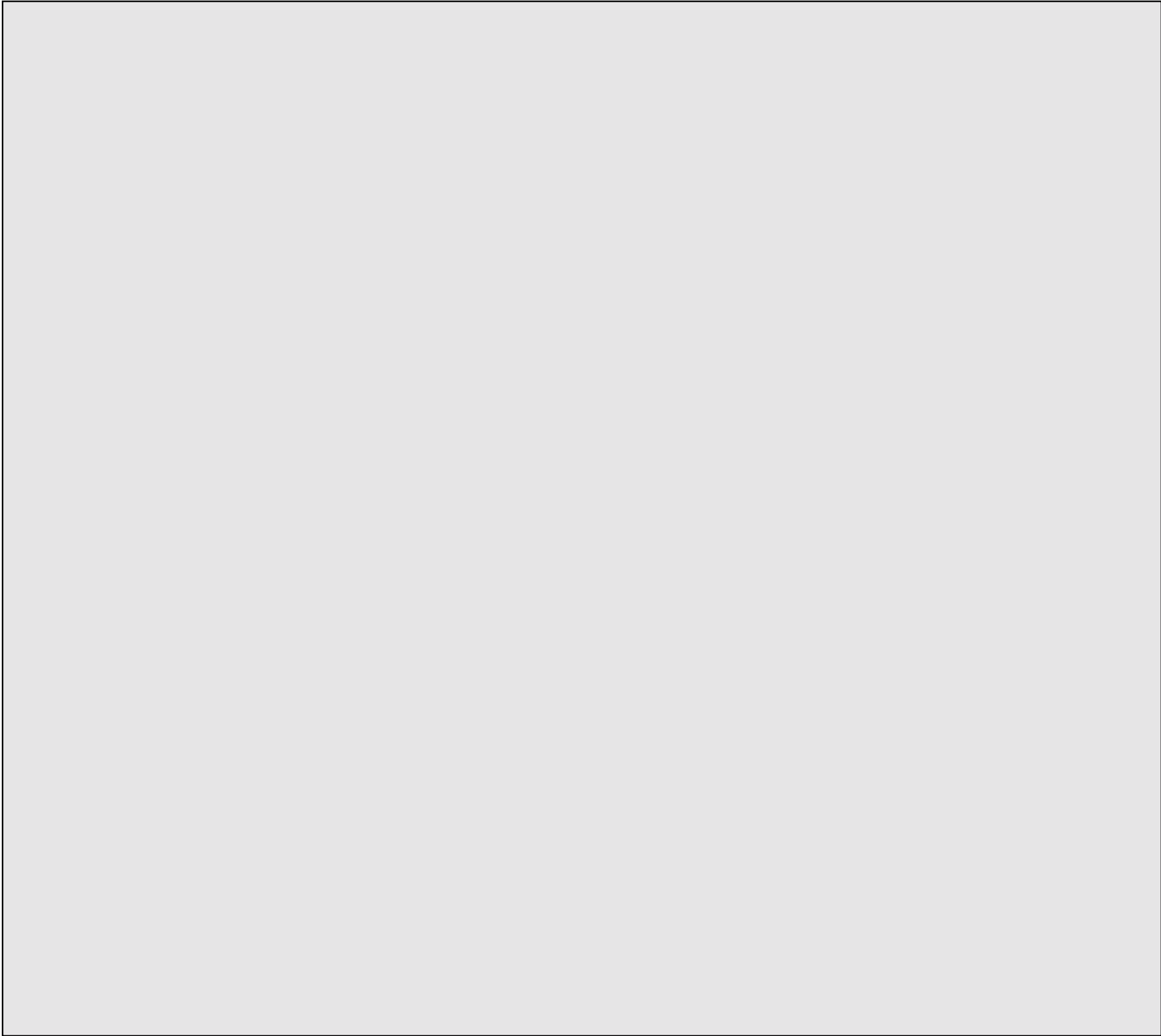
Dragstrip 77, Sin City Hotrods will provide musical entertainment from noon to 4 p.m.

Organizations donating funds to make the picnic possible are Arcata Associates, Inc., Armed Forces Bank, Bank of America, Bechtel National, Bechtel Nevada, Carter Burgess, H.F. Hamilton Insurance, JCH Wire and Cable, KIA, LA Chemical, Lake Mead Hospital, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Litton PRC, Lockheed Martin, Nevada Federal Credit Union, North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Pioneer Military Lending, Poker Palace Casino, Silver State Disposal, SolorElectric, Texas Hotel and Gambling Hall and Nevada Beverages.



The Nellis community enjoy last year's picnic.

File photo





Thunderbirds

Continued from Page 17

ment,” said Staff Sgt. Ryan Dudgeon, Thunderbird logistics coordinator. “My job is to work with headquarters and ensure we have airlift to and from our show sites.”

The home crew (those not traveling) maintainers take care of any last minute maintenance requirements and make sure the jets are ready to launch the following day.

Wednesday is also the day that the team’s advance pilot/narrator and his crew chief leave for the show site in one of the team’s two-seat F-16Ds. Once there, they will meet with air show organizers and help them make sure everything is ready for the arrival of the team the next day.

Thursday morning, the travelers arrive and ensure their luggage makes it to the support aircraft before the designated time. While the pilots are briefing their flight, the rest of the travelers are attending a deployment briefing where last minute itinerary changes and other important information is discussed.

Once the team arrives at a show site a flurry of action ensues. Soon after touchdown, Col. Bishop administers the oath of enlistment to young men and women joining the Air Force and all the officers meet with the local media for interviews. While this is happening, maintainers prepare the F-16s for the next day’s practice.

On Friday a practice demonstration is flown, helping the pilots become more familiar with the layout of the airfield, while giving people in the local community with special needs a chance to see a Thunderbird demonstration — without fighting the crowds.

“After the Friday practice, the pilots and some of the support crew will meet with special needs and Make-A-Wish children,” said Staff Sgt. Bob Purtiman, Thunderbirds media relations specialist. “It’s so rewarding to talk with these children and see how we’ve made their day so much brighter.”

As the “Ambassadors in Blue,” the Thunderbirds also spend a lot of time on Fridays visiting hospitals and schools talking with patients and children. In reality, the team spends more time talking with people than they do flying.

Saturdays and Sundays are airshow days with the team flying once each day before crowds ranging in size from 30,000 to more than one million. After the show, the officers and enlisted team members sign autographs and pose for pictures – hopefully convincing some young boy or girl to reach for their dreams and maybe someday join the Air Force.

“It’s an honor for us to represent the Air Force,” said Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Voigt, maintenance superintendent. “It means a lot to all of us to represent the pilots, maintainers and aviation support people who continue to make the U.S. Air Force the best in the world.”



The Thunderbirds are always looking to fill openings within the team. Once hired to the team, the assignment is a three-year controlled tour.

“One misconception about the Thunderbirds is that if you are selected for the team, you will be TDY more than 200 days a year,” said Staff Sgt. Betsy Philbrook, Thunderbirds assignments NCO. “The truth is that you don’t have to travel on every trip.

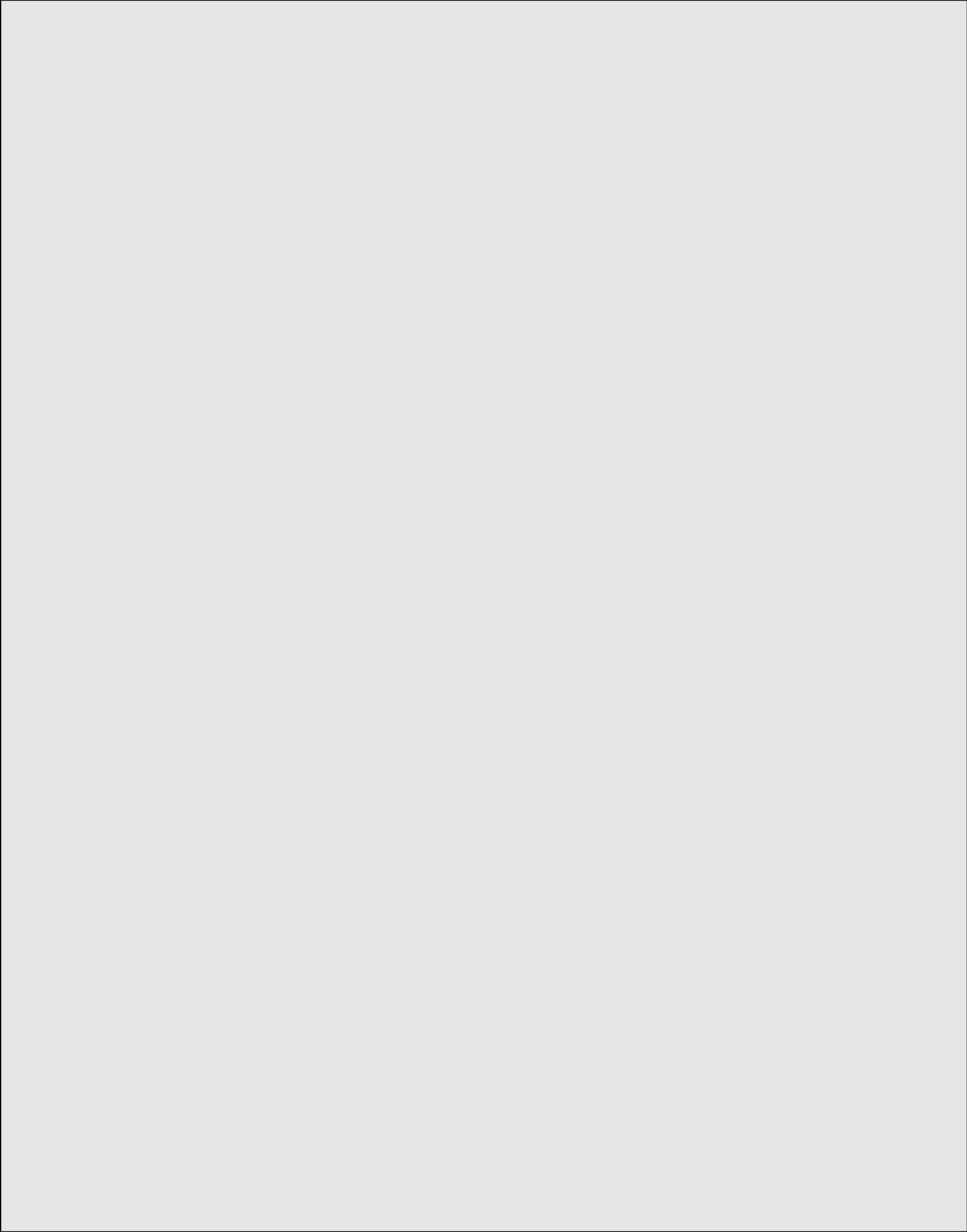
“Depending on your job, you can travel as little or as much as you’d like.”

For more information on job openings or how to apply, contact Sgt. Philbrook at 652-9947.

The team is now accepting applications for the following positions:

AFSC	Grade	Application due	Report Date
1T1X1	SSgt./TSgt.	Sept. 30	February 2000
2A3X2	SrA./SSgt. (2)	Sept. 30	January 2000
2A3X2	MSgt.	Sept. 30	April 2000
2A353B	SSgt./TSgt.	No deadline	Continuous*
2A6X1A	SrA./SSgt. (2)	Sept. 30	Jan./July2000
2A6X2	SrA./SSgt.	Sept. 30	February 2000
2A6X3	One SrA./SSgt.	Sept. 30	February 2000
2A654	SrA./SSgt. (3)	Sept. 30	February 2000
2A674	TSgt.	Sept. 30	March 2000
2A6X6	SrA./SSgt./TSgt. (2)	Oct. 15	May/Sept.2000
2A753	SrA./SSgt. (2)	Sept. 30	February 2000
2E1X3	SrA./SSgt.	Sept. 30	February 2000
2E1X3	SSgt./TSgt.	Sept. 30	May 2000
2S0X1	SSgts/TSgts (2)	Sept. 30	Jan./Aug. 2000
3V0X2	SrA./SSgt./TSgt.	Sept. 30	March 2000
3V0X3	SrA./SSgt.	Sept. 30	February 2000

* The team is always hiring crew chiefs. Packages may be submitted at any time.



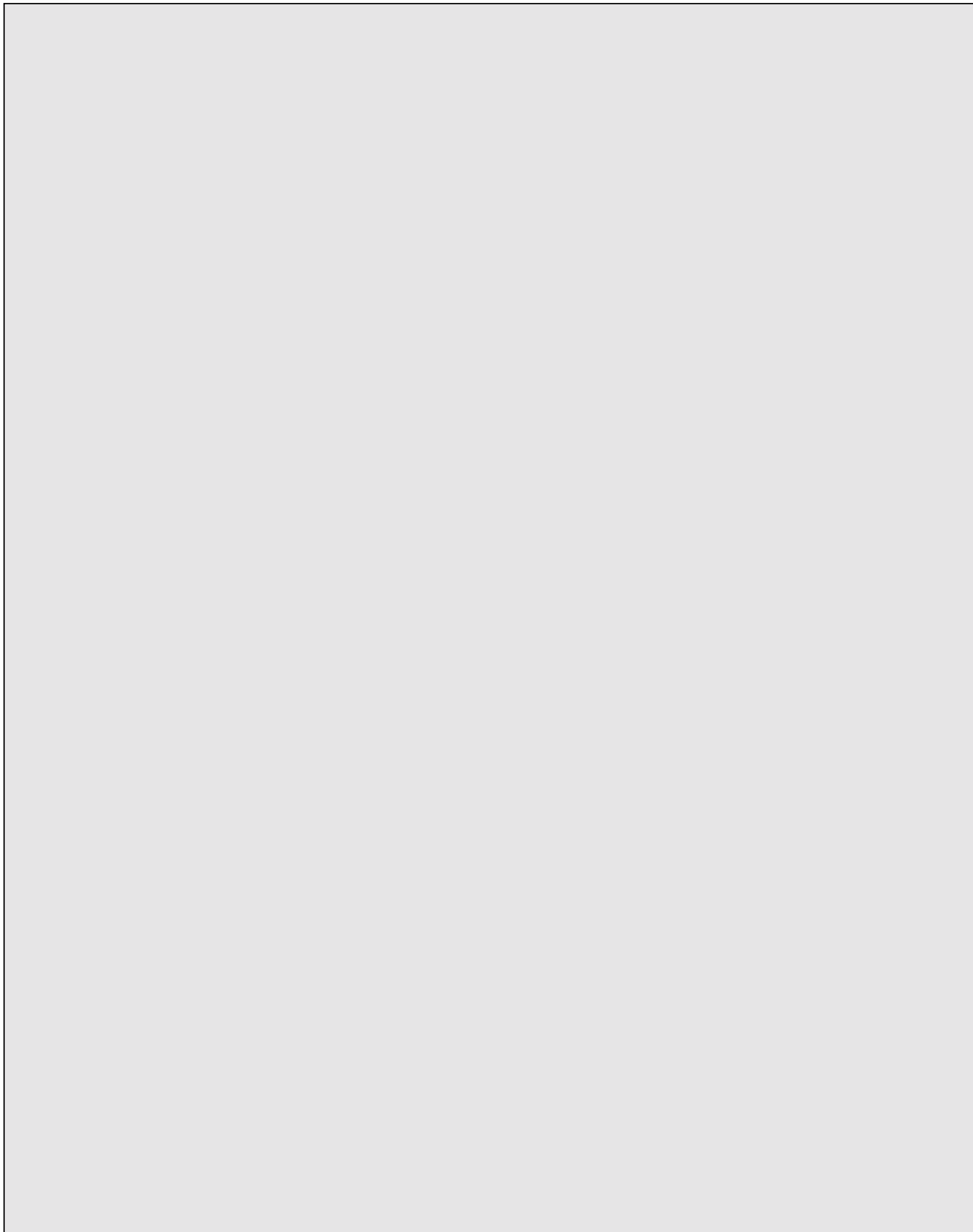




Photo by Staff Sgt. Jim Bianchi

A Look Back

In the May 26, 1989 Bullseye edition, Nellis received an excellent rating on its Operational Readiness Inspection setting the standard for the rest of Tactical Air Command to follow. The Department of Defense asked Congress to raise pilot bonuses to help with retention and the military officials were quoted as saying the B-1 is the “most effective and combat capable aircraft the Air Force has ever had.” The Recreation Center offered a comedy workshop while President George Bush issued a Memorial Day message honoring those members who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

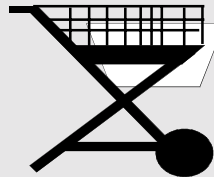


DO YOU WANT TO INCREASE YOUR RECYCLING?

WELL, WATCH WHAT YOU BUY!!

*Waste reduction starts at the shopping center.
When you go shopping follow these guidelines:*

*Buy durable products instead of those that
are disposable or cheaply made.*



Repair/restore used items before replacing them.

*Buy items you can re-use. Re-using margarine tubs
to freeze foods or pack lunches, for instance, reduces
the need for foil or plastic wrap.*

*Buy items you can recycle locally through curbside collection or
recycling centers.*



*Avoid excess packaging when
choosing product brands . Buy
products in bulk. Buy just the
amount you need; larger sizes
reduce the amount of packag-
ing, but smaller sizes reduce
leftover waste.*

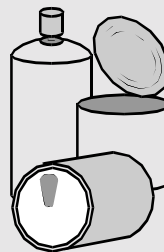




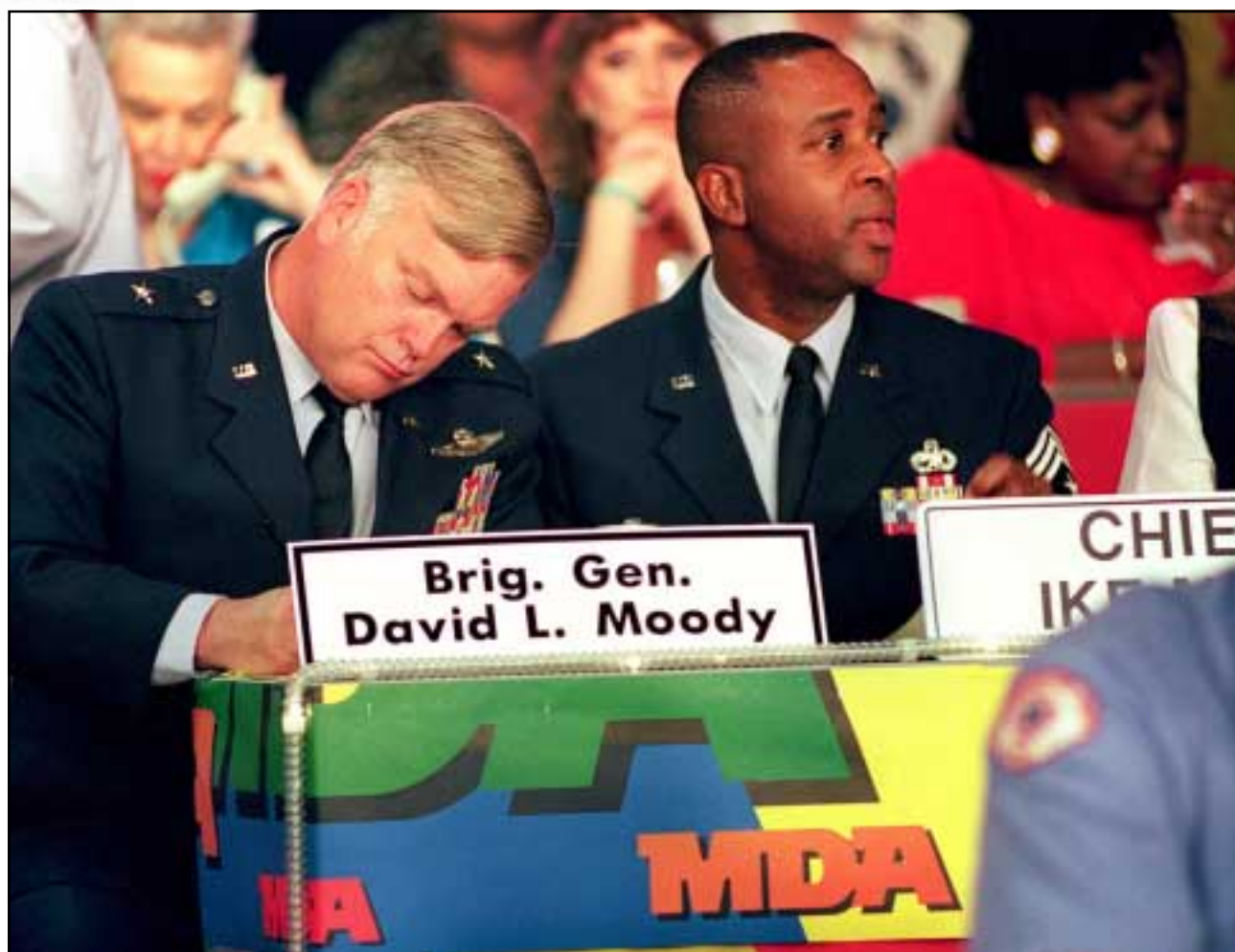
Photo by Senior Airman Molly A. Gilliam



Jimmy Kimmel

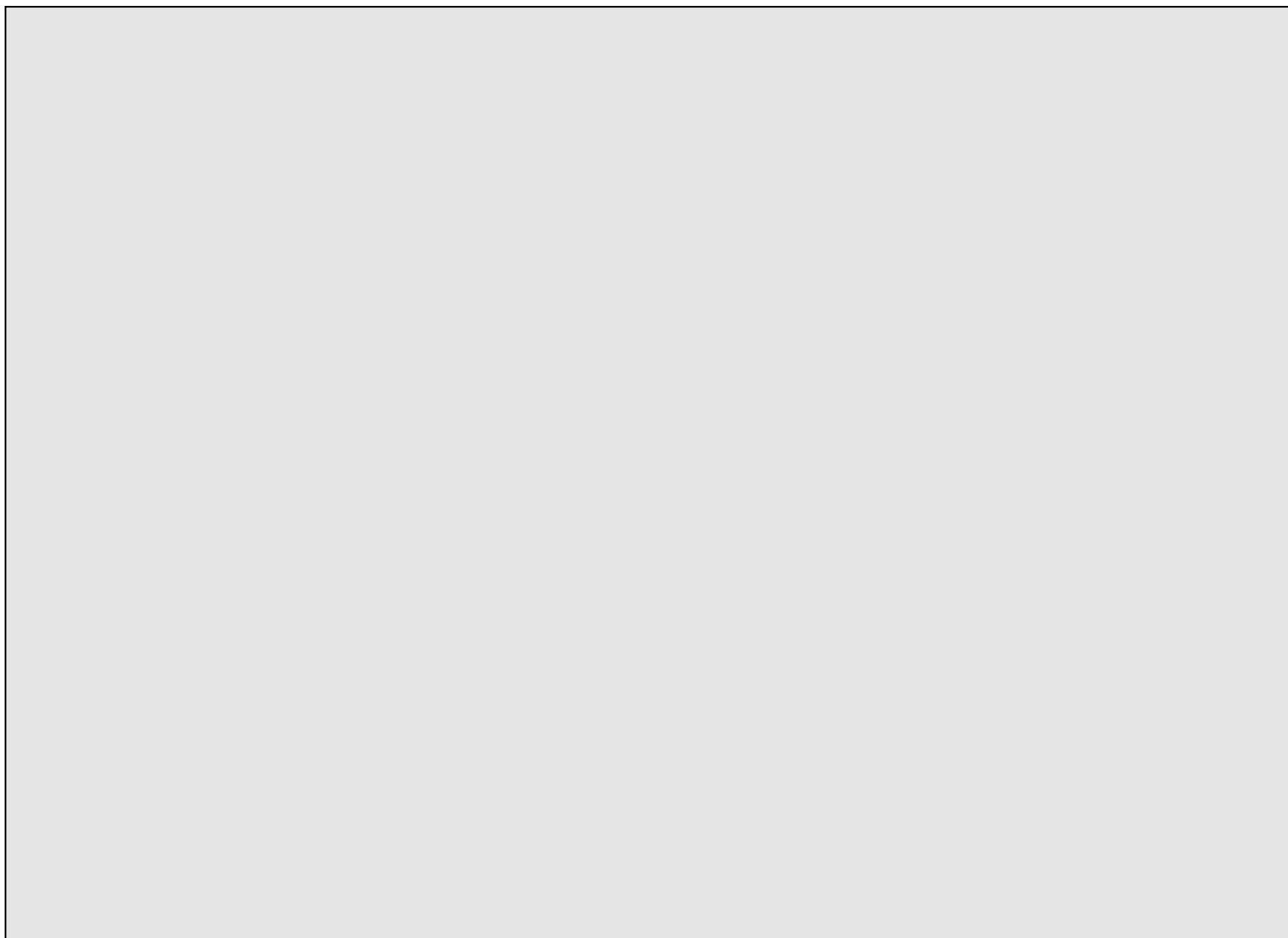
MDA TELETHON

Maj. Gen. Glen W. Moorhead III, Air Warfare Center commander, talks about military support for the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon with a local TV reporter Sunday. The telethon is a 21 and-a-half-hour variety show, annually broadcast by nearly 200 TV stations to 75 million viewers.



(Left) Brig. Gen. David Moody, 57th Wing commander, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Ike Moore answer phones at the Boulevard Mall for the 1999 MDA Telethon. (Above) Col. Andrew S. Dichter, 99th Air Base Wing commander, takes a telephone pledge during last weekend's MDA drive at Boulevard Mall.

Photos by Senior Airman Molly A. Gilliam





Community Center 652-5014

Dog obedience class

This seven-week class will begin at 6 p.m. Sept. 21 at Freedom Park. All dogs must be at least three months old and have a current shot record.

Cost for the class is \$25. Call to sign up.

Swap meet

Weather permitting, the swap meet will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 25. Tables to display goods are \$15.

For more information, call the Community Center.

Education Center 652-5180

Congratulations

The Education Center is pleased to announce that Staff Sgt.s Amy Merrihew, Bobby Hunt, John Schoonmaker and Senior Airman John Lucas have been selected for Officer Training School.

ASE exams

Registration continues for the November 1999 ASE examinations. DANTES authorizes funding for a maximum of three ASE exams per semi-annual administration, with the exception of recertification exams and the Advanced Engine Performance and Engine Diagnostic exams.

For more information, call 652-9405 or stop by the Education Center.

Study skills class

Learn study technique and other methods to succeed on every type of testing at the study and test taking skills class being offered from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Monday and Tuesday and Sept. 29 and 30.

Sign up in advance at the Education Center.

Job-related tuition assistance

Because of fiscal constraints, tuition assistance for job-related coursework will no longer be issued.

Tuition assistance

Anyone receiving tuition assistance must have a TA form filled out and approved prior to enrollment in any class. Failure to do so will result in the student being responsible for the entire amount.

Counseling services

Community College of Southern Nevada is now offering counseling services at Nellis. Call CCSN at 652-5527 to schedule an appointment or visit their office in Bldg. 20, Room 318.

Free classes

Community College of Southern Nevada will offer one free class to all active-duty people during the fall semester as a second-class enrollment. Military family members who have completed high school are eli-

gible to receive one free class after completion of a financial aid request form.

Registration for fall classes ends today.

Embry-Riddle

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers Associates, Bachelors and Masters degrees in Business Management, Technical Management and Aviation Management. For more information, call 652-9409.

University of Oklahoma

University of Oklahoma Registration is now open for the fall semester. The following classes will be offered: PSC 5960 Intro to Public Admin, PSC 5632 Comparative Public Policy and PSC 5242 Managing Public Programs.

Students must be registered at least four weeks prior to course start date. For more information, call Ms. Laurie Boetcher at 652-9453.

University of Phoenix

Fall classes are forming now. For more information, call 638-7868.

Enlisted Club 652-9733

Football Frenzy

Watch football games at the Enlisted Club and win prizes! Prizes include sport shirts, gift certificates, Super Bowl tickets and more.

SATO Travel, American Airlines, Best Western and Miller Lite sponsor Football Frenzy.

Club calendars

Those club members not receiving calendars should contact the Enlisted Club at 652-9733 or the Officers' Club at 652-9188.

Family Support Center 652-3327

Predeployment briefing

This briefing, held at 9 a.m. every Monday and 2 p.m. Wednesday, is designed to help people prepare for a deployment or remote assignment. The briefing includes registration for the Hearts Apart morale call program, and spouses are welcome.

Ready, Set, Grow

This program is held from 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays and is for parents of children ages three to 36 months. Parents can share parenting information, and children can interact with each other.

In and Out Budget

Bring a calculator and income statements from 2 to 4 p.m. Mondays and build a budget.

Intro to Career Focus

Gain general employment information from the local area and get tips for job hunting from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Computer seminar

Understand the value of computer certification at the Introduction to Computer Network Administrator seminar from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday. This seminar is an introduction to industry trends and changes for future network administrators and engineers. Reservations are required.

Operation Smooth Move

This meeting, held from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, will help make moving a more pleasant experience. Representatives from various base agencies will be available to answer questions.

Saturday Morning Live

A new videophone service is available by appointment only from 8 to 11 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month at the FSC.

For more information, call the Readiness Team at 652-3327.

Volunteer opportunities

Volunteer opportunities are available at the FSC and Family Services. Learn new job skills, make friends and provide assistance to people. Free child care is available through the Child Development Center.

For more information, call the FSC.

Golf Course 652-2602

Course closure

The Eagle/Falcon courses will be closed for over seeding Sept. 20 through Oct. 6. The Phantom course will be open for play at this time. Tee times will be made through the computer/telephones system as usual. The Phantom course will be closed for over seeding Oct. 7 through 24. For more information, call the Golf Course.

Health & Wellness Center 653-3376

Web page

The HAWC web site is 99mdg.nellis.af.mil/hawc1.htm. Check for all HAWC program information.

E-Mail address

The HAWC can be reached via electronic mail at AMDS.HAWC@nellis.af.mil.

Tobacco cessation

Tobacco cessation classes are offered at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. every Thursday. The program consists of five one-hour classes.

For more information, call the HAWC.

Cholesterol checks

September is Cholesterol Education Month. A cholesterol screening will be conducted by the HAWC from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 21 in the Base Exchange Lobby.

Skills Development Center 652-9304

Hobby craft bazaar

The Skills Development Center is hosting a hobby craft bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 2. The cost is \$12 per table. Registration will be held from Tuesday through Sept. 29.

Fine line engraving available

The Skills Development Center offers a wide selection of services to meet all your award and presentation needs including rotary and laser engraving. For more information, call the Skills Development Center.

Art/photography contest

Artists and photographers authorized to use the Skills Development Center may enter either contest taking place Oct. 5. Contestants will be divided into adult and youth groups. There are many categories to compete in, and entry forms are available at the Skills Development Center. Deadline for entries is Oct. 2.

Time Out Lounge 652-2880

Karaoke Extreme contest

The Time Out is hosting a karaoke contest every Wednesday night through Sept. 29. Prizes are awarded every week, with a grand prize drawing Sept. 22.

For more information, call the Time Out.

Youth Center 652-9307

Baby sitter club

Anyone looking for a baby-sitter can call the Youth Center baby-sitter club. Youth ages 13 and older are now available as sitters. Stop by the Youth Center to fill out an information sheet.

School-age program

Before and after school care is available from 6:30 to 9 a.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Registration is available from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Lock-in

The Youth Center is offering a pre-Air Combat Command lock-in from 9 p.m. Saturday to 7 a.m. Sunday. Youth ages 13 to 18 are welcome. Cost is \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members.

Canned food drive

Help the Youth Program Thunder Teens make a difference by donating canned goods or nonperishable food items now through Oct. 23. All donated items will go to the Nellis American Red Cross Food Locker. Items can be dropped off at Outdoor Recreation, the Community Center, Base Chapel and Youth Center.



Sneak Preview

Unless otherwise indicated, all show times are at 7 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 1 p.m. Call 652-5020 for more information.

Today

American Pie (R)
Jason Biggs, Jennifer Coolidge

Monday, Tuesday

The Haunting (PG-13)
Liam Neeson, Catherine Zeta-Jones

Saturday, 1,7 & 9 p.m.
Sunday, 1 & 7 p.m.

Inspector Gadget (PG)
Matthew Broderick, Rupert Everett

Thursday

Closed Wednesday
Lake Placid (R)
Bridget Fonda, Bill Pullman

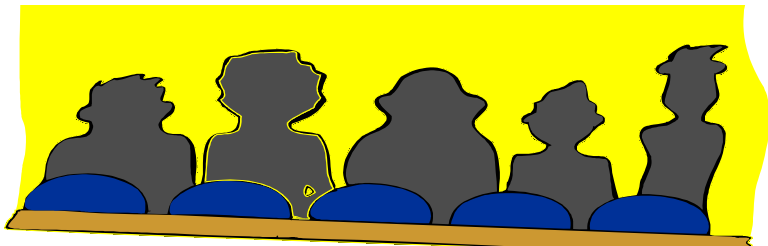


Photo by Mr. John Broussard

Destruction phase

Nellis construction contractors remove old Nellis Terrace Houses to make way for new homes. The contractor has until Oct. 17 to finish the removal of the old units. Under the proposed one-year construction project, the old units will be replaced with 28 three-bedroom duplexes. Base officials remind everyone using Kinley to be cautious of construction equipment.

